

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for facilitating image management for portable devices,
2 comprising:
3 a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device
4 and a second portable device; and
5 an interface device configured to communicate with the host and the first and
6 second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to:
7 determine whether the first portable device is valid for image
8 synchronization using information provided by the host; and
9 if it is determined that the first portable device is valid for image
10 synchronization, record an image of the first portable device, determine whether the second
11 portable device is valid for image synchronization, and download an image of the first
12 portable device to the second portable device if it is determined that the second portable
13 device is valid for image synchronization.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the interface device further includes
2 control logic configured to:
3 determine whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement
4 using information provided by the host; and
5 if it is determined that the second portable device is valid for image
6 replacement, retrieve an image of the first portable device and download the retrieved image
7 to the second portable device.

1 3. The system of claim 2 wherein the image of the first portable device is
2 retrieved from a database via the host.

1 4. The system of claim 2 wherein the interface device further includes
2 control logic configured to:
3 determine whether the second portable device includes additional information
4 that is not included in the image of the first portable device; and
5 if it is determined that the second portable device includes the additional
6 information, concatenate the additional information with the image of the first portable
7 device, and download the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable
8 device onto the second portable device.

1 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the interface device concatenates the
2 additional information and the image of the first portable device based on a set of conflict
3 resolution rules.

1 6. The system of claim 4 wherein the interface device further includes
2 control logic configured to:
3 forward the concatenated additional information and image of the first
4 portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

1 7. The system of claim 2 wherein the second portable device is not valid
2 for image replacement if it is determined that an authorized number of image replacements
3 have been performed with respect to the first portable device.

1 8. The system of claim 2 wherein the second portable device is not valid
2 for image replacement if it is determined that the second portable device is not linked to the
3 first portable device.

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the first portable device is not valid for
2 image synchronization if it is determined that an authorized number of image
3 synchronizations have already been performed with respect to the first portable device.

1 10. The system of claim 1 wherein the second portable device is not valid
2 for image synchronization if it is determined that the second portable device is not linked to
3 the first portable device.

1 11. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

1 12. The system of claim 1 wherein the system is implemented using
2 software, hardware or a combination of both.

1 13. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 include smartcards.

1 14. A system for providing image synchronization for portable devices,
2 comprising:
3 a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device
4 and a second portable device; and
5 an interface device configured to communicate with the host, a user, and the
6 first and second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to:
7 receive a synchronization request from the user;
8 in response to the synchronization request, determine whether the first
9 portable device is valid for image synchronization using information provided by the host;
10 and
11 if it is determined that the first portable device is valid for image
12 synchronization, record an image of the first portable device, determine whether the second
13 portable device is valid for image synchronization, and download an image of the first
14 portable device to the second portable device if it is determined that the second portable
15 device is valid for image synchronization.

1 15. The system of claim 14 wherein the interface device further includes
2 control logic configured to:
3 determine whether the second portable device includes additional information
4 that is not included in the image of the first portable device; and
5 if it is determined that the second portable device includes the additional
6 information, concatenate the additional information with the image of the first portable
7 device, and download the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable
8 device onto the second portable device.

1 16. The system of claim 15 wherein the interface device concatenates the
2 additional information and the image of the first portable device based on a set of conflict
3 resolution rules.

1 17. The system of claim 15 wherein the interface device further includes
2 control logic configured to:
3 forward the concatenated additional information and image of the first
4 portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

1 18. The system of claim 14 wherein the first portable device is not valid
2 for image synchronization if it is determined that an authorized number of image
3 synchronizations have already been performed with respect to the first portable device.

1 19. The system of claim 14 wherein the second portable device is not valid
2 for image synchronization if it is determined that the second portable device is not linked to
3 the first portable device.

1 20. The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

1 21. The system of claim 14 wherein the system is implemented using
2 software, hardware or a combination of both.

1 22. The system of claim 14 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 include smartcards.

1 23. A system for providing image replacement for portable devices,
2 comprising:
3 a host configured to maintain information relating to a first portable device
4 and a second portable device; and
5 an interface device configured to communicate with the host, a user, and the
6 first and second portable devices, the interface device having control logic configured to:
7 receive a replacement request from the user;
8 in response to the replacement request, determine whether the second
9 portable device is valid for image replacement using information provided by the host; and
10 if it is determined that the second portable device is valid for image
11 replacement, retrieve an image of the first portable device and download the retrieved image
12 to the second portable device.

1 24. The system of claim 23 wherein the interface device further includes
2 control logic configured to:
3 determine whether the second portable device includes additional information
4 that is not included in the image of the first portable device; and

5 if it is determined that the second portable device includes the additional
6 information, concatenate the additional information with the image of the first portable
7 device, and download the concatenated additional information and image of the first portable
8 device onto the second portable device.

1 25. The system of claim 24 wherein the interface device concatenates the
2 additional information and the image of the first portable device based on a set of conflict
3 resolution rules.

1 26. The system of claim 24 wherein the interface device further includes
2 control logic configured to:
3 forward the concatenated additional information and image of the first
4 portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

1 27. The system of claim 23 wherein the image of the first portable device
2 is retrieved from a database via the host.

1 28. The system of claim 23 wherein the second portable device is not valid
2 for image replacement if it is determined that an authorized number of image replacements
3 have been performed with respect to the first portable device.

1 29. The system of claim 23 wherein the second portable device is not valid
2 for image replacement if it is determined that the second portable device is not linked to the
3 first portable device.

1 30. The system of claim 23 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

1 31. The system of claim 23 wherein the system is implemented using
2 software, hardware or a combination of both.

1 32. The system of claim 23 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 include smartcards.

1 33. A method for facilitating image management for portable devices,
2 comprising:

3 using a host to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a
4 second portable device;
5 determining whether the first portable device is valid for image
6 synchronization using information provided by the host; and
7 if it is determined that the first portable device is valid for image
8 synchronization, recording an image of the first portable device, determining whether the
9 second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and downloading an image of the
10 first portable device to the second portable device if it is determined that the second portable
11 device is valid for image synchronization.

1 34. The method of claim 33 further includes comprising:
2 determining whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement
3 using information provided by the host; and
4 if it is determined that the second portable device is valid for image
5 replacement, retrieving an image of the first portable device and downloading the retrieved
6 image to the second portable device.

1 35. The method of claim 34 wherein the image of the first portable device
2 is retrieved from a database via the host.

1 36. The method of claim 34 further comprising:
2 determining whether the second portable device includes additional
3 information that is not included in the image of the first portable device; and
4 if it is determined that the second portable device includes the additional
5 information, concatenating the additional information with the image of the first portable
6 device, and downloading the concatenated additional information and image of the first
7 portable device onto the second portable device.

1 37. The method of claim 36 wherein the additional information and the
2 image of the first portable device are concatenated based on a set of conflict resolution rules.

1 38. The method of claim 36 further comprising:
2 forwarding the concatenated additional information and image of the first
3 portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

1 39. The method of claim 34 wherein the second portable device is not
2 valid for image replacement if it is determined that an authorized number of image
3 replacements have been performed with respect to the first portable device.

1 40. The method of claim 34 wherein the second portable device is not
2 valid for image replacement if it is determined that the second portable device is not linked to
3 the first portable device.

1 41. The method of claim 33 wherein the first portable device is not valid
2 for image synchronization if it is determined that an authorized number of image
3 synchronizations have already been performed with respect to the first portable device.

1 42. The method of claim 33 wherein the second portable device is not
2 valid for image synchronization if it is determined that the second portable device is not
3 linked to the first portable device.

1 43. The method of claim 33 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

1 44. The method of claim 33 wherein the method is implemented using
2 software, hardware or a combination of both.

1 45. The method of claim 33 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 include smartcards.

1 46. A method for providing image synchronization for portable devices,
2 comprising:

3 using a host to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a
4 second portable device; and

5 receiving a synchronization request from a user;

6 in response to the synchronization request, determining whether the first
7 portable device is valid for image synchronization using information provided by the host;
8 and

9 if it is determined that the first portable device is valid for image
10 synchronization, recording an image of the first portable device, determining whether the
11 second portable device is valid for image synchronization, and downloading an image of the

12 first portable device to the second portable device if it is determined that the second portable
13 device is valid for image synchronization.

1 47. The method of claim 46 further comprising:
2 determining whether the second portable device includes additional
3 information that is not included in the image of the first portable device; and
4 if it is determined that the second portable device includes the additional
5 information, concatenating the additional information with the image of the first portable
6 device, and downloading the concatenated additional information and image of the first
7 portable device onto the second portable device.

1 48. The method of claim 47 wherein the additional information and the
2 image of the first portable device are concatenated based on a set of conflict resolution rules.

1 49. The method of claim 47 further comprising:
2 forwarding the concatenated additional information and image of the first
3 portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

1 50. The method of claim 46 wherein the first portable device is not valid
2 for image synchronization if it is determined that an authorized number of image
3 synchronizations have already been performed with respect to the first portable device.

1 51. The method of claim 46 wherein the second portable device is not
2 valid for image synchronization if it is determined that the second portable device is not
3 linked to the first portable device.

1 52. The method of claim 46 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

1 53. The method of claim 46 wherein the method is implemented using
2 software, hardware or a combination of both.

1 54. The method of claim 46 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 include smartcards.

1 55. A method for providing image replacement for portable devices,
2 comprising:

3 using a host to maintain information relating to a first portable device and a
4 second portable device;
5 receiving a replacement request from a user;
6 in response to the replacement request, determining whether the determine
7 whether the second portable device is valid for image replacement using information
8 provided by the host; and
9 if it is determined that the second portable device is valid for image
10 replacement, retrieving an image of the first portable device and downloading the retrieved
11 image to the second portable device.

1 56. The method of claim 55 further comprising:
2 determining whether the second portable device includes additional
3 information that is not included in the image of the first portable device; and
4 if it is determined that the second portable device includes the additional
5 information, concatenating the additional information with the image of the first portable
6 device, and downloading the concatenated additional information and image of the first
7 portable device onto the second portable device.

1 57. The method of claim 56 wherein the additional information and the
2 image of the first portable device are concatenated based on a set of conflict resolution rules.

1 58. The method of claim 56 further comprising:
2 forwarding the concatenated additional information and image of the first
3 portable device downloaded onto the second portable device to the host.

1 59. The method of claim 56 wherein the image of the first portable device
2 is retrieved from a database via the host.

1 60. The method of claim 55 wherein the second portable device is not
2 valid for image replacement if it is determined that an authorized number of image
3 replacements have been performed with respect to the first portable device.

1 61. The method of claim 55 wherein the second portable device is not
2 valid for image replacement if it is determined that the second portable device is not linked to
3 the first portable device.

1 62. The method of claim 55 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 contain reward information relating to a loyalty program.

1 63. The method of claim 55 wherein the method is implemented using
2 software, hardware or a combination of both.

1 64. The method of claim 55 wherein the first and second portable devices
2 include smartcards.